

## Message Text

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN LONDON

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FOR S/PRS FROM FUNSETH

E.O. LL652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S REPLY TO NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL'S  
FAREWELL STATEMENT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECRETARY'S REPLY TO NATO  
SECRETARY-GENERAL LUNS' FAREWELL STATEMENT AT NAC,  
DECEMBER 10, 1976 (TEXT SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO  
PRESS BUT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PUT OUT AS STATE  
DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE):

QUOTE

I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE SECRE-  
TARY GENERAL AND ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES FOR SOME OF THE  
FRIENDLY THINGS THAT WERE SAID ON MY BEHALF. SOME  
OF THEM HAD THE CHARACTER OF AN OBITUARY.

I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT AT THE END OF THE  
MONDALE ADMINISTRATION, I WILL ONLY BE 69 YEARS OLD  
AND THAT WITHOUT DOUBT JOSEPH WILL STILL BE IN THE  
CHAIR HERE. AND SO THE FUTURE IS NOT ENTIRELY CLOSED  
TO ME, JOSEPH.

I HAVE TO CORRECT A FEW THINGS JOSEPH SAID YESTERDAY.  
WE HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER IN FACT 20 YEARS. HE HAS  
FORGOTTEN IT BECAUSE HE DID NOT PAY ATTENTION TO  
INSIGNIFICANT PROFESSORS AT THE TIME. I HAD WRITTEN A  
BOOK OF WHICH I WAS INORDINATELY PROUD AND SOMEBODY  
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INTRODUCED ME TO HIM IN THE LOBBY OF THE HOTEL AND I

THOUGHT I HEARD HIM MUMBLE THAT I HAD JUST WRITTEN THE MOST UNREAD BESTSELLER SINCE TOYNBEE.

AT ANY RATE, I REMEMBER MY FIRST MEETING HERE IN 1973, AND I RECALL THERE ARE ONLY VERY FEW OF US LEFT. ON THAT OCCASION, MY FRENCH COLLEAGUE WAS SITTING ACROSS THE TABLE FROM ME READY TO SPRING AT ME BEFORE I HAD EVER REACHED THE VERB IN MY SENTENCE. THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER INSISTED DESPITE ALL OF THIS THAT THERE WERE NO DIFFERENCES. MAX VAN DER STOEL WAS DESPERATELY ATTEMPTING TO MOVE MATTERS TO A HIGHER MORAL PLANE. AND GASTON THORN WAS INSISTING THAT IF ONLY THE SMALLER COUNTRIES WERE RUNNING THINGS, SUCH VULGAR DISPLAYS OF BAD TEMPER COULD NOT OCCUR. SINCE THEN, NATO HAS GREATLY STRENGTHENED ITS COHESION.

I APPRECIATED THE COMMENTS OF JOSEPH. MAYBE WHAT MY EUROPEAN ORIGIN HAS DONE FOR ME IS TO HELP ME UNDERSTAND THAT NOT ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE AND THAT NATIONS CAN SUFFER TRAGEDIES IF THEY DO NOT ACT WITH WISDOM AND DEDICATION AND FORESIGHT. THE GREATEST CHANGE THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN AMERICA IN THE LAST EIGHT YEARS IS THE REALIZATION THAT WE TOO NOW ARE INEXTRICABLY PART OF A WORLD IN WHICH OUR CHOICES AND NOT SIMPLY OUR RESOURCES DETERMINE OUR FUTURE. THIS IS WHY I FEEL THAT THIS GROUP, WHICH HAS JUST NOW GONE THROUGH ONE OF ITS ANNUAL EXERCISES, HAS A PROFOUND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY.

WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY OF FREEDOM, BUT WE ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENT OF FREEDOM. IT IS THIS GROUP OF JUST A FEW OTHER COUNTRIES OF HUMANE INSTITUTIONS THAT NOW REPRESENTS THE CONSCIENCE OF FREE MEN. THIS IS WHY MY ASSOCIATION WITH YOU HAS MEANT SO MUCH TO ME AND WHY I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR THE COMMENTS YOU HAVE ALL MADE. THANK YOU.

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KISSINGER  
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